The Coal India Limited suffered losses mainly due to steep increase in the cost of production due to increase in wage bill, increase in the cost of other inputs such as timber, explosives, Petrol, Oil and Lubricant, higher incidence of depreciation and interest charges, higher production of inferior grades of coal in the total production etc.

The freedom of Coal India Limited to plan is limited as targets of production and prices of coal are externally fixed having regard to the overall interests of the national economy. Howevr, Coal India Limited is being encouraged to reduce the cost of production by improving the efficiency of operations by reducing administrative expenses, by better utilisation of men and machinery and by introduction of better management practices and technologies. The measures being taken in this behalf are expected to improve the financial performance of the coal companies but it is difficult to quantify the effect in terms of reduction in losses as these are also affected by increase in wages and cost of other inputs.

Rise in the Prices of Medicines

1208. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of price controlled and de-controlled medicines have gone up substantially after the announcement of the Drug Price Control Order, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price of Tristina Capsules pack of 500 capsules has gone up around 90 per cent, that of Kemicitine Ointment 140 per cent. The comac Tablets strip of 10 tablets 181 per cent, Ludermol Ointment 138 per cent, Ludermol Injection 210 per cent, Ludermol Liquid 136 per cent. Xerosol Liquid 92 per cent, Acitron Tablets 4 mg. 194 per cent, Solvigon Tablets 107 per cent. Actifid Tablets 250 per cent. Marzine Tablets 125 per cent and that of many other medicines between 100 per cent to 250 per cent, after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(c) if so, whether the manufacturers of these products have submitted a break up as required under DPCO 1987; and

(d) if so, what was the price of each before DPCO, 1987 and what is the present price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Medicines prices of which have gone up mainly belong to the non-scheduled category under DPCO, 1987. Increase in the prices of some scheduled medicines has been allowed as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(b) to (d) The required details to the extent available are given in the statement at annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 40]. To the extent, information is available, Tristina capsules, Kemecitine Ointment, Theomac tablets and Xerosal Liquid are produced by SSI Units who have claimed exemption of their Category II products from price control under DPCO, 1987 as per Order of Govt. of India No. S.O. 924(E), dated 16th Oct., 1987 issued under paragraph 22 of DPCO, 1987. A copy of said order is attached at Statement-I. [*vide* Answer to Unstarred Question 1196 supra].

Increased Prices of Neosporin, Nebasulf, etc.

1209. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are subscribing to ORG;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that ORG provides annual sales turn-over